

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 10 and 12 and cancel claim 9 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A manipulating hand for handling a wire material comprising

an elongate member having a longitudinal axis,

means for retaining said elongate member parallel to the forearm of an operator,

a rod axially moveable with respect to said elongate member between an extended position and a retracted position,

a hook at a distal end of said rod,

means for urging said rod to said extended position,

hand operable means including a trigger for drawing said rod to said retracted position,

attachment means for locking said trigger for movement with said rod,

release means for releasing said attachment means from said rod wherein said hook may be rotated about said longitudinal axis while said attachment means is released from said rod, and

an engagement member for engaging said hook when said hook is drawn into said retracted position.

2. (original) The manipulating hand of claim 1 wherein said means for retaining said elongate member parallel to the forearm of an operator comprising a ring defining a plane perpendicular to said axis.

3. (original) The manipulating hand of claim 1 wherein said means for urging said rod to said extended position is a coil spring.

4. (currently amended) The manipulating hand of claim 1 wherein said hand operable means comprises a handle member perpendicular to said axis wherein said ~~and a trigger~~ is moveable by a finger of an operator having a hand on said handle.

5. (original) The manipulating arm of claim 1 wherein said engagement member is a radial flange.

6. (original) The manipulating hand of claim 1 wherein said elongate member is a tube and said rod is axially moveable within said tube.

7. (original) The manipulating hand of claim 6 wherein said means for urging said rod to said extended position is a coil spring within said tube.

8. (currently amended) The manipulating hand of claim 7 wherein said hand operable means comprises a handle member perpendicular to said axis and a wherein said trigger is moveable by a finger of an operator having a hand on said handle.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A The manipulating hand for handling a wire material comprising an elongate tubular member having a longitudinal axis and an inner opening,

means for retaining said tubular member parallel to the forearm of an operator,

a rod axially moveable within said tubular member between an extended position and a retracted position,

a hook at a distal end of said rod,

a coil spring for urging said rod to said extended position,

a handle perpendicular to said axis,

a trigger moveable by a finger of an operator having a hand on said handle,

attachment means for locking said trigger for movement with said rod,
wherein said rod is axially moveable in response to movement of said trigger,

an engagement member for engaging said hook when said hook is drawn into said retracted position, and of claim 8 and further comprising,

~~attachment means for locking said trigger for movement with said rod,~~
release means for releasing said attachment means from said rod wherein
said hook may be rotated about said axis while said attachment means is
released from said rod.

11. (original) The manipulating hand of claim 10 wherein said means for
retaining said elongate member parallel to the forearm of an operator comprises
a ring defining a plane perpendicular to said axis through which said forearm of
said operator extends.

12. (currently amended) A manipulating hand for handling a wire material
comprising

an elongate member having a longitudinal axis,

means for retaining said elongate member parallel to the forearm of an
operator,

a hook and an engagement member at a distal end of said elongate
member,

said hook moveable between a first position spaced from said
engagement member and a second position abutting said engagement member,

means for urging said hook toward one of said first position and said
second position, and

means including a longitudinally moveable rod and a trigger, for moving
said hook between ~~from~~ said first position and ~~to~~ said second position wherein

said means for moving is operable by the hand of an operator the forearm of which is retained parallel to said elongate member, and-

release means for releaseably retaining said rod to said trigger wherein said rod and said hook may be rotated about said longitudinal axis while said trigger is released from said rod.